

SENATE BILL NO. 225

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY THE SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Introduced: 3/4/22

Referred: Education, Labor and Commerce, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act relating to a paraprofessional training program; creating a teacher resident**
2 **certificate; creating a teacher residency program; relating to requirements to issue a**
3 **teacher certificate; relating to subject-matter expert limited teacher certificates; relating**
4 **to limited teacher certificates; creating a teacher registered apprenticeship program;**
5 **and creating a teacher registered apprenticeship program fund."**

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

7 * **Section 1.** AS 14.07.020(a) is amended to read:

8 (a) The department shall

9 (1) exercise general supervision over the public schools of the state
10 except the University of Alaska;

11 (2) study the conditions and needs of the public schools of the state,
12 adopt or recommend plans, administer and evaluate grants to improve school
13 performance awarded under AS 14.03.125, and adopt regulations for the improvement

1 of the public schools; the department may consult with the University of Alaska to
2 develop secondary education requirements to improve student achievement in college
3 preparatory courses;

4 (3) provide advisory and consultative services to all public school
5 governing bodies and personnel;

6 (4) prescribe by regulation a minimum course of study for the public
7 schools; the regulations must provide that, if a course in American Sign Language is
8 given, the course shall be given credit as a course in a foreign language;

9 (5) establish, in coordination with the Department of Health and Social
10 Services, a program for the continuing education of children who are held in juvenile
11 detention facilities or juvenile treatment facilities, as those terms are defined in
12 AS 47.12.990, in the state during the period of detention or treatment;

13 (6) accredit those public schools that meet accreditation standards
14 prescribed by regulation by the department; these regulations shall be adopted by the
15 department and presented to the legislature during the first 10 days of any regular
16 session, and become effective 45 days after presentation or at the end of the session,
17 whichever is earlier, unless disapproved by a resolution concurred in by a majority of
18 the members of each house;

19 (7) prescribe by regulation, after consultation with the state fire
20 marshal and the state sanitarian, standards that will ensure healthful and safe
21 conditions in the public and private schools of the state, including a requirement of
22 physical examinations and immunizations in pre-elementary schools; the standards for
23 private schools may not be more stringent than those for public schools;

24 (8) exercise general supervision over pre-elementary schools that
25 receive direct state or federal funding;

26 (9) exercise general supervision over elementary and secondary
27 correspondence study programs offered by municipal school districts or regional
28 educational attendance areas; the department may also offer and make available to any
29 Alaskan through a centralized office a correspondence study program;

30 (10) accredit private schools that request accreditation and that meet
31 accreditation standards prescribed by regulation by the department; nothing in this

1 paragraph authorizes the department to require religious or other private schools to be
2 licensed;

3 (11) review plans for construction of new public elementary and
4 secondary schools and for additions to and major rehabilitation of existing public
5 elementary and secondary schools and, in accordance with regulations adopted by the
6 department, determine and approve the extent of eligibility for state aid of a school
7 construction or major maintenance project; for the purposes of this paragraph, "plans"
8 include educational specifications, schematic designs, projected energy consumption
9 and costs, and final contract documents;

10 (12) provide educational opportunities in the areas of vocational
11 education and training, and basic education to individuals over 16 years of age who
12 are no longer attending school; the department may consult with businesses and labor
13 unions to develop a program to prepare students for apprenticeships or internships that
14 will lead to employment opportunities;

15 (13) administer the grants awarded under AS 14.11;

16 (14) establish, in coordination with the Department of Public Safety, a
17 school bus driver training course;

18 (15) require the reporting of information relating to school disciplinary
19 and safety programs under AS 14.33.120 and of incidents of disruptive or violent
20 behavior;

21 (16) establish by regulation criteria, based on low student performance,
22 under which the department may intervene in a school district to improve instructional
23 practices, as described in AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or (15); the regulations must include

24 (A) a notice provision that alerts the district to the deficiencies
25 and the instructional practice changes proposed by the department;

26 (B) an end date for departmental intervention, as described in
27 AS 14.07.030(a)(14)(A) and (B) and (15), after the district demonstrates three
28 consecutive years of improvement consisting of not less than two percent
29 increases in student proficiency on standards-based assessments in language
30 arts and mathematics, as provided in AS 14.03.123(f)(1)(A); and

31 (C) a process for districts to petition the department for

continuing or discontinuing the department's intervention;

(17) notify the legislative committees having jurisdiction over education before intervening in a school district under AS 14.07.030(a)(14) or redirecting public school funding under AS 14.07.030(a)(15);

(18) collaborate with districts to establish a paraprofessional training program for districts designed to prepare high school students for entry into the teacher registered apprenticeship program established in AS 23.15.860.

* **Sec. 2.** AS 14.20 is amended by adding new sections to read:

Sec. 14.20.013. Teacher resident certificate. (a) Notwithstanding AS 14.20.020, the department shall issue a teacher resident certificate to a person who meets the requirements of (b) of this section.

(b) To be eligible for a teacher resident certificate, a person must

(1) either

(A) hold a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a recognized regional or national accrediting association or approved by the commissioner and be currently enrolled in an approved

(i) post-baccalaureate teacher education program at a nationally or regionally accredited institution meeting the requirements of AS 14.20.020(b) that provides for completion of the regular teacher certificate education requirements within three years after receipt of a teacher resident certificate under this section; or

(ii) nontraditional or alternative teacher education program; or

(B) be currently enrolled in the final year of a baccalaureate degree teacher education program at an institution of higher education accredited by a recognized regional or national accrediting association or approved by the commissioner;

(2) have submitted fingerprints and the fees required by the Department of Public Safety under AS 12.62.160 for criminal justice information and a national criminal history record check to the department; the department must have

submitted the fingerprints and fees to the Department of Public Safety for a report of criminal justice information under AS 12.62 and a national criminal history record check under AS 12.62.400, and the person must have been found by the department to be suitable for employment as a teacher under AS 14.20.020(f); and

(3) have taken the competency examination or examinations described in AS 14.20.020(i).

(c) A teacher resident certificate is valid for one school year and only valid while a teacher resident is participating in the teacher residency program established under AS 14.20.014. A teacher resident certificate may be renewed for two additional school years upon a showing of substantial progress toward completion of a teacher education program required under (b)(1) of this section and continued participation in the teacher residency program under AS 14.20.014. In this subsection, "teacher resident" means a teacher qualified to teach under (b) of this section.

(d) The department shall adopt regulations necessary to implement this section and shall consult with school districts, regional educational attendance areas, the University of Alaska, and other stakeholders before adopting regulations as required under this subsection.

Sec. 14.20.014. Teacher residency program. (a) The teacher residency program is established in the department. The department shall adopt regulations to establish, implement, and govern the program. At a minimum, the regulations must

(1) establish a program designed to help a teacher resident work as a teacher while progressing toward completion of the teacher education program required under AS 14.20.013(b)(1);

(2) require the department to

(A) provide each teacher resident participating in the program with a mentor who is an experienced teacher and who will teach in conjunction with the teacher resident;

(B) provide training for program mentors; and

(C) help place a teacher resident in a school district or regional educational attendance area where the teacher resident will work as a teacher while progressing toward completion of the teacher education program

1 required under AS 14.20.013(b)(1); and

2 (3) allow a school district or a regional educational attendance area to
3 participate in the program if the school district or regional educational attendance area
4 provides compensation to a teacher resident who is participating in the program and
5 working for the school district or regional educational attendance area under the
6 program.

7 (b) Before adopting regulations under (a) of this section, the department shall
8 consult with school districts, regional educational attendance areas, the University of
9 Alaska, and other stakeholders.

10 (c) A person employed as a teacher resident under this section is considered a
11 certificated employee for purposes of AS 14.25 (teachers' retirement system).
12 Employment as a teacher resident under this section counts as employment for
13 purposes of acquiring tenure under AS 14.20.150; however, a teacher resident is not
14 entitled to tenure until the teacher resident receives a teacher certificate under
15 AS 14.20.020.

16 (d) In this section,

17 (1) "program" means the teacher residency program established under
18 this section;

19 (2) "teacher resident" means a teacher qualified to teach under
20 AS 14.20.013(b).

21 * **Sec. 3.** AS 14.20.020(h) is amended to read:

22 (h) A person is not eligible for a teacher certificate unless the person has
23 completed **the coursework, training, and examinations** [THREE SEMESTER
24 HOURS] in Alaska studies and [THREE SEMESTER HOURS] in multicultural
25 education or cross-cultural communications **as required by the board by regulation.**
26 However, the commissioner may issue a provisional certificate, valid for **not** [NO]
27 longer than two years, to an applicant who has not completed the **coursework,**
28 **training, and examinations** [SEMESTER HOURS] required under this subsection at
29 the time of application. **A school district or regional educational attendance area**
30 **may establish coursework, training, and examination requirements that are more**
31 **stringent than the coursework, training, and examinations required under this**

1 **subsection.**

2 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.20.022(b) is amended to read:

3 (b) To be eligible for a subject-matter expert limited teacher certificate, a
4 person shall

5 (1) hold at least a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher
6 education accredited by a recognized regional or national accrediting association or
7 approved by the commissioner and

8 (A) have majored or minored in the subject that the person will
9 be teaching; [OR]

10 (B) have at least five years of experience in the subject matter
11 that the person will be teaching; or

12 **(C) have achieved a passing score, as defined by**
13 **department regulations, on a subject-matter examination approved by the**
14 **board;**

15 (2) have submitted fingerprints and the fees required by the
16 Department of Public Safety under AS 12.62.160 for criminal justice information and
17 a national criminal history record check to the department; the department must have
18 submitted the fingerprints and fees to the Department of Public Safety for a report of
19 criminal justice information under AS 12.62 and a national criminal history record
20 check under AS 12.62.400 and the person must have been found by the department to
21 be suitable for employment as a teacher under AS 14.20.020(f); [AND]

22 (3) be currently enrolled in an approved

23 **(A)** post-baccalaureate teacher education program at a
24 **nationally or** regionally accredited institution meeting the requirements of
25 AS 14.20.020(b) that provides for completion of the regular teacher certificate
26 education requirements within **three** [TWO] years after receipt of a subject-
27 matter expert limited teacher certificate under this section; **or**

28 **(B) nontraditional or alternative teacher education**
29 **program; and**

30 **(4) have taken the competency examination or examinations**
31 **described in AS 14.20.020(i).**

1 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.20.022(d) is amended to read:

2 (d) A subject-matter expert limited teacher certificate is valid for one school
3 year and may be renewed for two [ONE] additional school years [YEAR] upon a
4 showing of substantial progress toward [TOWARDS] completion of a [THE] teacher
5 education program required under (b)(3) of this section.

6 * **Sec. 6.** AS 14.20.022(e) is amended to read:

7 (e) A school district or regional educational attendance area that employs a
8 subject-matter expert teacher shall provide a mentor who is an experienced teacher for
9 the subject-matter expert teacher for at least the first two years [YEAR] of the
10 subject-matter expert teacher's employment in the school district or regional
11 educational attendance area.

12 * **Sec. 7.** AS 14.20.025 is amended to read:

13 **Sec. 14.20.025. Limited teacher certificates.** Notwithstanding
14 AS 14.20.020(b), a person may be issued a limited certificate, valid only in the area of
15 expertise for which it is issued, to teach Alaska Native language or culture, military
16 science, or a vocational or technical course [FOR WHICH THE BOARD
17 DETERMINES BY REGULATION THAT BACCALAUREATE DEGREE
18 TRAINING IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY AVAILABLE]. A limited certificate may be
19 issued under this section only if the school board of the district or regional educational
20 attendance area in which the person will be teaching has requested its issuance. A
21 person who applies for a limited certificate shall demonstrate, as required by
22 regulations adopted by the board, instructional skills and subject matter expertise
23 sufficient to ensure the public that the person is competent as a teacher. The board
24 may require a person issued a limited certificate to undertake academic training as
25 may be required by the board by regulation and make satisfactory progress in the
26 academic training.

27 * **Sec. 8.** AS 23.15 is amended by adding new sections to read:

28 **Article 7. Teacher Registered Apprenticeship Program.**

29 **Sec. 23.15.860. Teacher registered apprenticeship program.** (a) The teacher
30 registered apprenticeship program is established in the department.

31 (b) The department shall

1 (1) adopt regulations to establish, implement, and govern the program.
 2 At a minimum, the regulations must establish

3 (A) a program for school districts designed to help
 4 paraprofessionals continue to work as a paraprofessional while earning credit
 5 toward a bachelor's degree and teaching certification; and

6 (B) program standards that meet the requirements necessary to
 7 qualify the program as a registered apprenticeship program under 29 U.S.C. 50
 8 - 50c (National Apprenticeship Act);

9 (2) apply to register the program as a registered apprenticeship
 10 program under 29 U.S.C. 50 - 50c (National Apprenticeship Act);

11 (3) consult with the Department of Education and Early Development
 12 and the University of Alaska before adopting regulations or applying to register the
 13 program as required under this subsection.

14 **Sec. 23.15.870. Teacher registered apprenticeship program fund.** (a) The
 15 teacher registered apprenticeship program fund is established in the general fund for
 16 the purpose of providing funding for the program. The fund consists of money
 17 appropriated to it by the legislature, including grants and donations, money from other
 18 sources, and interest earned on money in the fund. Appropriations to the fund do not
 19 lapse.

20 (b) The department shall administer the fund in accordance with the
 21 provisions of this chapter. The department may spend money appropriated to the fund
 22 for the purposes under AS 23.15.860 - 23.15.880, and to pay the costs of
 23 administering the program without further appropriation.

24 (c) The department shall apply for and use funds from the teacher registered
 25 apprenticeship program fund to obtain private and federal grants for the purposes
 26 under AS 23.15.860 and this section.

27 (d) The department may make a grant to a school district from the fund for the
 28 school district's implementation and operation of a teacher registered apprenticeship
 29 program established under AS 23.15.860. The department may require that a school
 30 district provide matching funds for the implementation and operation of the program
 31 for which the school district requests the grant.

1 **Sec. 23.15.880. Definition.** In AS 23.15.860 - 23.15.880, "program" means the
2 teacher registered apprenticeship program established under AS 23.15.860.

3 * **Sec. 9.** AS 37.05.146(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

4 (80) the teacher registered apprenticeship program fund under
5 AS 23.15.860.

6 * **Sec. 10.** AS 14.20.022(c) is repealed.